PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

BULLETIN] **JANUARY 23, 1943** **[No. 130**

LECTURE CXXX.

1942 and 1943.

Mr. Atlee's Survey.

Although during the last two months, there has been nothing so dramatically unexpected as the Norh African landings, we can view the successes of 1942 with sober satisfaction, and look forward to 1943 with justifiable confidence.

Everywhere, the initiative has passed into the hands of the United Nations. In any review of the war, we should give the pride of place to the wonderful achievements of the Russian army. It is dfficult to realise that when Mr. Churchill gave his last review on November 11, the German tide of advance was still threatening Stalingrad. Nine days later, the main Russian offensive started, and since then, right up to the present, blow has followed blow, and attack has followed attack.

German attempts to relieve the Sixth Army cut off at Stalingrad have utterly failed, and it looks as though none of that great force will escape.

Meanwhile, the Russian advance continues sweeping down towards Rostov rolling up the German right flank in the Caucasus, while at Leningrad, Velikye Luki, and Voronj, renewed blows are being delivered.

This great feat, in the winter, will surely take its place in history as an outstanding achievement.

In North Africa, Rommel's record retreat has begun again. Our troops are already in Misurata. [The 8th Army is now at Tripoli. Tripoli is about to fall.—Editor].

Our objective is the total destruction of the enemy forces in North Africa. The time will come when there is nowhere for him to go.

PERFECT CO-OPERATION.

Everybody there is co-operating—the United States, the British, the French—under general Eisenhower.

Malta, which only a few weeks ago was in such mortal danger, has been re-supplied, and is more than ever a thorn in the enemy's side. The French civil authorities are co-operating fully with the Allied forces fighting alongside ours in Tunisia.

About the alleged differences between the British and Americans regarding North Africa, it is natural that French affairs should not appear always in the same light to the British and the Americans. Such variations in outlook should not be exaggerated. The British Government fully appreciated the advantage of the maintenance by the United States Government of relations with the Pétain Government.

We realised that their contacts were of advantage while they lasted, and actually bore fruit at the time of the North African operations.

The greatest harmony continues between the British and American members of General Eisenhower's Joint Staff. The two Governments have a single objective—to promote the unity of all Frenchmen against the axis for the liberation of France.

To help this, Mr. Macmillan has been appointed Resident Minister at Allied Headquarters in North Africa. No secondary or personal consideratinos should be allowed to stand in the way of a fraternal union and the redemption of France.

THE FAR EAST.

It would be wrong to minimise the dangers still existing there, but there are great differences in the position compared to a year ago. In Burma, the initiative has changed hands. As regards New Guinea, every step had been taken to deal with the accumulation of the Japanese force at Rabaul.

There was not a single day during November and December on which British bombers did not go out.

About the recent attacks on Essen, Lorient and Berlin we shall continue to press on with these bomber attacks, concentrating always on those targets that are the most effective to bring the enemy down.

The British Government are resolved during 1943, in the closest co-operation with all our Allies, to strike at the enemy by land, sea aad air, everywhere with the utmost vigour and determination.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

16—1—43 to 22—1—43.

Russia.—The Soviet armies operating from different points between VORONEJ and the CAUCASUS are gradually coalescing, the Kalmuck division with the main Caucasian division on the one hand, and on the other hand,

with the Kotelnikovo forces which in their turn are effecting a junction with the Tsymlyanskaya army on the upper Don. Thus, the Soviet line which adjoins the Middle Don Front is linked up with the Donetz Front, the Lower Don Front, the Donetz River Front and the Sal River Front. From the banks of the Sal River runs the Zimovniki Sector in front of SALSK, and further to the south, the Soviet line runs parallel with the Manych River through the Kalmuck Steppes to Divnoe and the North CAUCASUS, thus practically forming a continuous front from VORONEJ to the North CAUCASUS.

In the CAUCASUS the Russian advance is now well beyond the SPA District of MINERALNIE VODI. On Janauary 13 KUMAGORSKY and SUVUROVSK, 8 and 16 miles respectively from MINERALNIE VODI were occupied. Later, KURENNY, BLAGODARUOE and ALEXANDROES KOE were taken. On the Stavrspol Plateau at the foot of the CAUCASUS rapid advance is in progress towards MAIKOP and SALSK. [SALSK has fallen according to the latest radio announcement—Editor].

The liquidation of the STALINGRAD Germen forces is only a question of time. Out of 200,000 Axis forces here only 80,000 survive and now that the Russian ultimatum demanding surrender has been rejected, annihilation by starvation, disease and attack is the only alternative. Russian troops have penetrated to the Western Suburbs of the city.

South of VORONEJ, the Army of the Upper Don has cut the main ROSTOV-VORNEZ Railway at GLUBOSKAVA and LITVIKOVKA. MILLEROVO, ALEXEYSKA, KOROTOYARK, PODOGORNAYA and ROSSOSH, VALUIKI, URAZAVO, and BELAYA-KALITVA have fallen. Three of those places are important. VELUIKI and ROSSOSH are important railway centres near KHARKOV KAMENSK is a vital communication centre to ROSTOV. A new Russian offensive emerging from the ALEXSEAVKA area threatens the Germans near VORONEJ and has approached KURSK, the supply base for the Germans before VORONEJ.

The most important success of the week is however the lifting of the siege of LENINGRAD. This Russian offensive was started in two directions from the Neva River and Lake Ladoga. After a week's resistance the Neva was crossed, SCHLUSSELBURG was taken and the two forces closing up on January 18 broke through the investment of LENINGRAD. The communiqué on the news reports touching scenes as the triumphant Red Army entered LENINGRAD, "Strangers embraced one another in the streets. The soldiers were stopped and hugged by factory workers. 'Victory' meetings were held in every factory and throughout the city." Thus LENINGRAD where thousands died of hunger last winter has been saved from another such winter. Trainloads of food are arriving. In honour of the victory Gen. Zhukov has been appointed Marshal.

Tripolitania.—Montgomery resumed his pursuit of Rommel on Jan. 15. The attack was along two directions. Rolling in from the south, British tanks chased the enemy while at the same moment striking along a 15 mile

line stretching from the coast into the desert around BUERAT, British infantry supported by artillery moved out against the Axis defences. There was no preliminary artillery barrage as at EL ALAMEIN. After a flanking movement in which Montgomery out-manoeuvred the opposing forces the Germans abandoned their positions and fled. The flight continues. Rommel seems to have retained his most mobile columns for the purpose. He has now been swept past BUERAT and driven out of SEDADA BIR TALA, the TAURGA BIR DUJAN—BEN ULID area, MISURATA, GARIBALDI and the ZLITEN area. TRIPOLI is about to fall.

Free French Forces from CHAD have made contact with the French Forces in Southern TUNISIA and the Eighth Army in LIBYA. The French camel troops have occupied two more oases of which one is GHAT in the Libyan Desert.

Tunisia.—In the DJEBEL BOUD-ABOUS area, 20 miles north-west of KAIRWAN Allied troops have captured important positions: infantry and armoured engagements have taken place in the BOU ARADA-COUBELLIAT area in which the enemy has gained some ground.

Burma.—Hard fighting continues for RATHEDAUNG. The Japanese who clung to three-points adjacent to the place have been displaced from one of them, Temple-Hill, while two pagoda-topped summits still remain. This is on one side of the Mayu River and on the other side of it DONBAICK, a coastal village has been taken. The R. A. F. targets of the week were: January 13 KYAUKTAW and LAUNGCOMUNG; and January 15 AKYAB area and the water transports on the Chindwin and the Irrawaddy. American planes attacked TOUNGOO, TAMANGDUNG and CHATIANG.

On the night of December 31 Japanese aircraft made an inhuman attack on an Allied hospital ship as she lay at anchor in Burmese waters.

India.—On January 15, three enemy bombers approached the CALCUTTA area but were shot by an Allied fighter in less than 4 minutes—a unique record in aerial combats. The enemy jettisoned his load outside the target area mostly in open fields. The damage was negligible. No casualties are reported. In fact, but for the Alert and Raiders-Passed sirens, CALCUTTA would have been hardly aware that the raiders had come and been destroyed.

On the morning of January 17 a few enemy aircraft attacked the FENNY aerodrome and the same night made a brief raid on the CHITTAGONG area, with slight damage and a few casualties.

On the night of January 19 a small number of enemy aircraft raided CALCUTTA again. Two enemy bombers were brought down. The damage was slight.

The Solomons.—On January 10—11 U. S. motor-boats attacked and drove off at least 8 Japanese destroyers which attempted to land reinforcements. The U. S. ground-forces are advancing steadily. Japanese pockets are being isolated.

New Guinea.—SANANANDA Point has been captured and General Mac Arther has opened a new front north-west cf it at MUBO. Five Japanese ships were either sunk or damaged in a bombing attack off RABAUL during the week.

Miscellaneous.—1. The Iraqi Government have declared war aganist GERMANY, ITALY and JAPAN for which the reasons are many :—1 The Axis attempt to destroy the legitimate Government of IRAQ (2) Dissemination of false news. (3) Utterances disrespectful to the Royal Family. (4) Encouragement to Iraqi outlaws.

2. On the night of January 16 and 17 BERLIN had two of the heaviest R. A. F. raids, known. In the German raid on LONDON on January 17 nine enemy planes were destroyed and in their raid on January 20 an Elementary School in the London area was hit, and 30 children and two teachers were killed.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

10—1—43 (Sunday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT :—

Laying mines in enemy coastel waters.

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

Axis transport on the coastal road in TRIPOLITANIA and WADI RAMI area.
Aerodromes in SICILY and LAMPEDUSA.
LA GOULETTE and SFAX.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire Front.

FAR EAST.

An enemy convoy off New BRITAIN (2 ships sunk).
The aerodromes at WEWAK, FINSCHHAFEN and MADANG (N. Guinea).
The airfield at LAE (N. Guinea).
SANANANDA area (N. Guinea).
Villages on AKYAB Island.
MYITGNE bridge near MANDALAY (Burma).

11—1—43. (Monday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT :—

Military and Industrial objectives in the RUHR (Germany).
NAPLES (Italy).

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

Targets near GABES.
The airfield at CASTEL BENITO.
Bridges between SFAX and GABES.
Objectives in TUNIS and SOUSSE.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The harbour at RABAUL (N. BRITAIN).
The Jetty at ANDOBIA (N. Guinea).
The railway station at PIMTHA (Burma).
Japanese steamers on CHINDWIN River (Burma).
Railway trucks and buildings at KYAIKTHIN.
Villages in AKYAB area.
LIUNGCHANG and RATHEDAUNG (Burma).

12—1—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE.

DAY :—

Water transport and railway targets in the LOW COUNTRIES.
Military targets in the RUHR.

NORTH AFRICA.

The roads near MISURATA.
Transport convoys in TRIPOLITANIA and TUNISIA.
The port at SOUSSE.
A vessel off TUNISIA.
The harbour and airfield at TRIPOLI.
HOMS.
Railway targets near GABES.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes all along the Eastern Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap position at MUNDA (N. Georgia).
The Jap position at SANANANDA point.
The aerodrome at KINGMEN.
Railway targets in central Burma.
Enemy rivercraft in the CHINDWIN and IRRWADDY Rivers.
Villages in the AKYAB Island.
Sampans near AKYAB.

13—1—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE (4 allied planes missing).

DAY :—

Industrial plants in LILLE (France).
The airfield at ST. OMER.
Engine sheds, locomotives and railway yards in Northern FRANCE.

NIGHT :—

ESSEN (Germany).
An enemy convoy off the DUTCH coast.

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

The supply ports of SOUSSE and SFAX.
Transport convoys and tanks moving along the coast of TRIPOLI.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The aerodromes and buildings at MADANG and FINSCHHAFEN (both in N. Guinea).
The aerodrome and ports at LAE and SALAMAUA (N. Guinea).
KYAUKTAW (Burma).
LAUNGCOMUNG.
The aerodrome at AKYAB (Burma).

14—1—43 (Thursday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
Railway targets in Northern FRANCE.
Offensive sweeps over FRANCE.

NIGHT:—
The submarine base at LORIENT.

NORTH AFRICA.

The harbour at TRIPOLI.
Targets in the battle area in TUNISIA.
Ry. trucks between SFAX and GABES.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian battlefield.

FAR EAST.

MADANG, FINSCHHAFEN, LAE and SALAMAUA (all in N. Guinea).
The aerodrome at GASMATA (N. Britain).
FUILORO (Timor).
Villages in the AKYAB area.
Jap positions near RATHEDAUNG (Burma).

15—1—43 (Friday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
The docks at CHERBOURG.
Railways and central targets in FRANCE and LOW COUNTRIES (3 Axis planes shot down).

NIGHT:—
The submarine base at LORIENT (France).
Ry. targets in Northern France.

NORTH AFRICA.

The harbour at TRIPOLI.
The aerodrome at CASTEL BENITO.
The aerodromes on the LAMPEDUSA Island.
Ry. targets in Southern TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Front.

FAR EAST.

The aerodromes at MADANG, FINSCHHAFEN (N. Guinea) and GASMATA (N. Britain).
The harbour at RABAUL (N. Britain).
A ship off N. IRELAND.
An airfield in CELEBES.
Jap position in and near SANANANDA area.
A convoy off RANGOON (Burma).
Jap targets in North-west Burma.

16—1—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE

NIGHT:—
BERLIN (Germany) (only one Allied plane missing).
Shipping and railway fargets in Northern FRANCE and the LOW COUNTRIES.

NORTH AFRICA & MEDITERRANEAN.

The harbour at TRIPOLI.
SFAX and SOUSSE.
Axis motor convoys along the TRIPOLI—MISURATA road.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The harbour at RABAUL (N. Britain).
The aerodrome at GASMATA (N. Britain).
The aerodrome at CAPE GLOUCESTER.
Enemy transport in ADMIRALTY Islands and AMBOINA Island.
Enemy targets on the AKYAB Island.
Coastal shipping off ARAKAN.

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

11—1—43 (Monday). BRITAIN.

No air activity.

NORTH AFRICA.

Br. forward positions in TRIPOLITANIA.

RUSSIA.

Supplying the surrounded German army in the STALINGRAD area.

FAR EAST.

No information available.

12—1—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid.

NORTH AFRICA.

BONE (Algeria).

FAR EAST.

Air-field at GUADALCANAR.

13—1—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

A place on the South-east coast of ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

Air combats over TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Russian reinforcements behind the Russian positions in all the sectors.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over SANTA ISABEL (4 Jap planes destroyed).

14—1—43 (Thursday)

BRITAIN.

Coastal districts of North-east ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

PONTDUFAHS (TUNIS).

FAR EAST.

MERAUKE (Dutch N. Guinea).

15—1—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

AFRICA.

KAIRWAN.

FAR EAST.

Port MORESBY (N. Guinea).
CALCUTTA area (India) (3 Jap planes shot down).

16—1—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

A place on the South-east coast of ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

Allied positions in the MEDJEZ EL BOB area.

RUSSIA.

Russian positions in all the sectors in Russia.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over HUON GULF (3 Jap planes destroyed).

17—1—43. (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

A few places in South-eastern ENGLAND, LONDON area.

NORTH AFRICA.

No information.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).
The aerodrome at FENNY (India).

SIDE LIGHTS.

A BRIGHT WEEK. The year has opened very well indeed for the Allies. Not a morning passes but brings news of fresh successes, or to be more particular, the early listener-in is rewarded for his pains by encouraging news flashed by the B. B. C's resonant announcer. This week in particular has been the harbinger of cheering news in daily succession and from every quarter of the globe, from the far-away South-Seas where SANANANDA has fallen and the American advance in GUADALCANAR is progressing, from the FAR EAST where the Chinese are putting the Japanese to rout, from across the Burmese border where British and Indian armies are forcing their way to RATHEDAUNG and from TRIPOLITANIA where Montgomery has resumed the longest march in History and is now at TRIPOLI. This is not all and the honours of the week justifiably belong to the Eastern Front. If KOTELNIKOVO was RUSSIA's 1942 parting gift, VELIKIYE LUKI, her New year Day gift (The place was captured on January 1) and MOZDOK, her New year's first week's gift, to the present week belong RUSSIA's ultimatum to the German Army at STALINGRAD, the break-through at the Donetz and last but not least the lifting of the siege of LENINGRAD and the isolation of the Finnish armies.

In the bewildering multiplicity of place-names in the Russian communiqués it is quite possible for the casual reader to lose sight of the main trends in the present Russian conflict. There are reports of at least a dozen offensives criss-crossing one another but the reader should realise it represents but a single, a gigantic, though Homeric battle from Lake Ladoga in the north to the CAUCASUS in the far south. To-day it is not a battle for a break-through at a single point but a succession of shocks all along the line to produce a cumulative, staggering, total effect—a repetition by Timoshenko of Marshal Foch's 1918 hammer-blows. Fortunately to Russian strategy winter too has come to his aid in a peculiar way. It is to Russian advantage that while the winter of 1942 was unusually severe, that of 1943 is unusually mild. While the severity of last winter checked the German advance the present mild season has added to the mobility of the Russian drive, otherwise intensified by fresh troops, a new air-force, new weapons, manufactured and transported, and by the new co-ordinated Allied strategy. The blow that is now struck on the Don and the Donetz, let it be remembered, was started at EL ALAMEIN and but for the relentless drive of the 8th Army and the British Armada off the African coast the formidable German concentration in the East would not have been attenuated as it has been and Timoshenko's thrust would not have become possible.

There has been a change in Russian strategy also. Last winter the Germans maintained their positions by means of 'hedgehogs' or strongly fortified zones. This winter the hedgehogs are first by-passed, and then surrounded and smashed. VELIKIYE LUKI was so taken.

The fate of the trapped German armies at STALINGRAD is terrible indeed to contemplate. In the words of the recent Russian ultimatum they are suffering from hunger and sickness, from cruel frost, cold wind, and snow-storms; yet it is only the beginning of winter. They have no winter-equipment. The situation is hopeless and rescue impossible. But surrender, the only alternative left, has been denied them, because the German High Command wirelessed that relief was on the way. It was all a lie and now there is nothing but death to face. STALINGRAD has become the scene of the most humiliating disaster for the Armies of the Third Reich. Twenty-two divisions of Hitler's finest forces already reduced from 200,000 to some 80,000 are held in a fatal grip, eating their own dead-horses and dying off at 1,500 a day, from hunger and cold, from epidemics and from Russian steel.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

RAW MATERIAL. The most precious raw material for war, according to Dr. Goebbels, is the human material, for the industries as well the battle-fronts, and the most anxious utterances of the Doctor at present are that GERMANY is short of this precious commodity. It is reported that a Commission of High German Army Officers is touring the Reich combing out man-power and mustering even men previously rejected.

Hitler is also busy practising his old game of stirring up trouble in RUMANIA and HUNGARY in order to frighten the authorities to send him the additional forces for his Russian Front. The game is first, to set these two States by the ears and next to set up illegal parties, threatening to overthrow the existing puppet rulers. The Iron Guard Plot is encouraged by Hitler in RUMANIA as a threat to Antonescue who has shown some reluctance of late to supply more cannon-fodder. The method is this. If Antonescue would be compliant the Iron Guard would be kept down; but if Antonescue proved obdurate the Iron Guard would replace him.

In HUNGARY also the Nazis have their own party, the Arrow Cross, to stir up trouble with. When necessary Hitler puts the screw on the Hungarian Regent, Admiral Horthy, through the Arrow Cross. It is too soon for the Admiral to have forgotten that in 1940 the Arrow Cross tried to kidnap him and hoist Major Szalassy, their leader, in his place.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

NORTH AFRICA. There are increasing signs that the 8th Army, the 1st Army, and the Allied Army in AFRICA are setting the stage for a decisive attack. In TUNISIA both bad weather and the delicate political situation have hitherto somewhat delayed the preparations, and the Axis too have been getting considerable supplies by their short sea route though with two of their armies, one in TRIPOLITANIA and the other in TUNISIA, they do not know which to reinforce. We do not know what Rommel will yet do and where and if he will attempt to make a final stand; hitherto he has practised discretion as the better part of valour; but one thing has now become certain, namely, that if he prefers

to fight he can play only to the tune that Montgomery will call, or in the alternative, that he must repeat his EL AGHEILA tactics and steal away under cover of darkness. But again these withdrawals cannot be indefinitely repeated. The Axis armies have already had the longest retreat on record; the cream of the Panzer Army has been killed or captured and Montgomery is biding his time for clearing it out of AFRICA. The Axis prospects are bleak on land, in sea and in air. In the air, the Allied superiority has been established; on land Free French troops after an adventurous trek from CHAD across 1,500 miles have contacted the French Army and the 8th Army; and on the sea, MALTA airmen carry a round—the clock offensive on Axis targets on both sides of the 'bomb-ally' (the Sicilian Channel).

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

NORTH AFRICAN POLITICS. It is now known that a number of Royalists were involved in the assassination of Darlan because he would not join their ranks and that the Comte de Paris, the Pretender to the French Throne, is on the scene. Ever since the American landings began there has started a bitter dispute between the Liberals and the Democrats on one side and the Vichyites on the other hand, for the control of NORTH AFRICA now, and of FRANCE later. Meanwhile, a certain American Correspondent has created a sensation by stating that GREAT BRITAIN and AMERICA held divergent views on the North African political issues, as distinguished from the military, and some British papers taking up the cry have indulged in the assumption that BRITAIN is 'sniping' at the UNITED STATES. They have stated that while BRITAIN backed General de Gaulle, the American Government championed Giraud. There is undoubtedly a large pro-Vichy element now in office in North AFRICA. It is also possible that General Eisenhower, in his anxiety to avoid bloodshed, made undisclosed promises to the Vichyites. If a meeting between De Gaulle and Giraud could be brought about the differences might still be closed but of it unfortunately there are no signs yet. Giraud says he is not a politician but the times require a politician who is also a fighter. Darlan was that. Giraud has complicated matters by appointing M. Marcol Peyrouten, Former Minister of the Interior in Pétain's Government, a member of his Government and General de Gaulle is disturbed because Peyrouten had previously opposed him.

General de Gaulle's services to the Allied Cause need not be reiterated here, they are well known. To add to his previous services, Fighting French Forces under him, advancing from the depths of EQUATORIAL AFRICA, have now marched a thousand and fifty miles, and having occupied FEZZAN and, having driven the remnants of the Italian forces from Southern LIBERIA, have joined hands with the British Eighth Army and the North African French troops, so that they are now in a position to take part in the coastal operations on the Mediterranean itself. As General de Gaulle broadcast on the 13th 'by the victory of the Chad troops the flame which Hitler thought he had extinguished in FRANCE' has once more burst into flame.

To add to these complications, the political and public life of NORTH AFRICA is, as M. Pierre Maillaud, tha French correspondent has put it, 'still weighed down by the legacy of two years of Vichy administration and Axis collaboration propaganda.' The Allied landing has not yet cleared up the remains of this régime. A great majority of the people are pro-Allied but they are divided among themselves. There are those who have been influenced by the enemy and by Vichy. There are the Royalists and the De Gaullists who helped in the Allied coup in the ALGERIA landing. As regards the Government there are two organisations—one, the Imperial Council consisting of Gen. Giraud, Gen. Nogues, M. Chattel, M. Boisson and Gen. Bergeret and the other, the members of the Civil Administration composed of diverse elements.

The political situation which is thus in every sense delicate requires, as one could see, capable diplomatic intervention to clean it up, and Mr. Brenden Bracken's statement on January 15 has done much to clear the air, to begin with, and to knock the bottom out of the insinuation that BRITAIN and AMERICA favoured different parties. He declared, 'The British Government had given their power of attorney in NORTH AFRICA to General Eisenhower and had every confidence in him.' The statement, as the *New York Times* has said, is 'in effect a joint declaration of Anglo-American policy.' To this declaration, Mr. Harold Macmillan, the British Minister in NORTH AFRICA has added a valuable statement. He has stated, 'The presence of Admiral Darlan in NORTH AFRICA was not considered in the long-term plans of landing. We recognised the *de facto* Government—Future actions on this line will be determined by individual circumstances'. Asked whether the British Government were playing their part to bring General de Gaulle and General Giraud together Mr. Macmillan added 'The Allies are doing everything possible to facilitate such an event'.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

GUADALCANAR. The situation in the SOLOMONS is somewhat as follows. Though the Japanese occupy a large part of the Island the Allied possession of GUDALCANAR is assured. The military authorities are confident that with adequate sea protection the Japanese on the Island can be eliminated. Japanese efforts to reinforce have been well frustrated and the enemy has been reduced to the necessity of supplying food by air. The Japanese may finally decide to abandon the island, finding the warfare uneconomic.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

NEW GUINEA. A straight line drawn from Humboldt Bay in the northern extremity to the Bensback River in the south divides the Island of NEW GUINEA into two halves, with British NEW GUINEA in the eastern half and Dutch NEW GUINEA in the western half. By another line drawn from the Sterrn Mountains to Mount Simpson along the Owen Stanley range British NEW GUINEA is again divided into about two equal parts, the southern half being called PAPUA while to the north

lies MORESBY to reach which the Japanese made a futile attempt several months ago. They have now been driven across the Stanley range, out of BUNA and GONA, and according to the latest news out of SANANANDA also. The story of the last stages of the struggle at SANANANDA Point, barely 700 yards by 400 is tragic. When the resistance became hopeless the enemy turned tail and fled in parties of 50, abandoning even the sick and wounded. Many of the Japanese captured betrayed a condition of unrelieved misery in their emaciated faces. Every tree, writes the official commentator, bore shrapnel scars from base to tip and the whole place looked like 'a lost world of desolation.'

The enemy is now concentrating at LAE and SALAMUA, in NEW GUINEA, in an area extending from FINSCHKAFEN in the north and MUBO in the west; but his attempts to establish himself are stoutly opposed.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

SWINDLE, or grand larceny is the name which will best describe the loot and exploitation now in progress in Axis-controlled EUROPE and ASIA. The whole bias is towards the creation and crystallisation of cartels and the investing of them with political power. The Allied Democracies having learnt by bitter experience that cartels lead only to slums at home and disasters abroad are moving away from private control of trade and resources. But the Axis have taken up the discarded ways and have started on a regular campaign of plunder in the name of economic security.

In EUROPE, for instance, to quote Dr. Funk, 'the peace-time economy must guarantee to the Greater German Reich maximum security to the German people, and maximum of consumption of goods in order to secure their welfare. 'Germany does not want even the *tradition* of heavy industry to survive *outside* GERMNY. After this war war armament will go on at the present rate, bringing new world power to GERMANY.' And so, and under this cloak the Hermanning Goering Iron works, quite a small concern in pre-war days, are now become the greatest industrial monopoly combine in EUROPE, with a capital of 4,000 million reich marks and a million of compulsory workers, controlling besides, the Skoda and Brunner Armament Works in CZECHOSLOVAKIA, the LUXEMBOURG and LORRAINE Steel Industry, the Silesian heavy industries in POLAND, the Resitza Works in RUMANIA, the Dunderlan Iron Mines in NORWAY and the Solway Glass Trust in BELGIUM.

The *Kolnische Zeitung* has openly admitted that German personnel and German capital will be invested in every country, in order to create an economic unity and that the German entrepreneur will assist in materialising political aims.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

'NEW STRUCTURE'. JAPAN is following the same lines of swindle in the *New Structure* movement, as it is called, which has now been sanctioned in an Imperial Ordinance.

According to the '*New Structure*' the goal of economic mobilization from now on will be a permanent movement which will not stop merely with the tiding over of the war-time situation but go further to include the situation after the war. This grand larceny is to be realised by the establishment of cartels, the concentration of political power in the hands of the key-businessmen, the suppression of small business, the abolition of control over profits, the grant of State subsidies and the creation of 'leaders'.

The plan, wrote the *Japan Times and Advertiser* involves a fundamental change, the *curtailment* of production of materials required by countries *outside* the Orient and the *increase* of materials which will increase the Sphere's, that is, *Japan's economy.* In other words every thing will subserve the political ends of Japan, and the satellite countries will get the crumbs, subject to JAPAN's military exigencies and as decided by the Japanese military administration. Thus, for instance, spinning and weaving will be started early in JAVA with the approval of the military authorities; in MALAYA, the Japanese military authorities have decided to cultivate rice wherever possible and export tin and rubber to JAPAN; in BURMA the Japanese military administration has reached a decision to place the textile industry under charge of the Fuzi Cotton Spinning Co.

The aim is twofold, to make the satellites self-sufficient in light industries especially in these days of Nippon's shipping stortage, and to convert the slave nations into hewers of wood and drawers of water to supply raw materials for the heavy industries which will be concentrated in JAPAN. Thus, the economy of the PHILIPPINES for the present will be made self-sufficient in food and clothing; but so far as JAVA is concerned, the island will be converted into a store-house of agricultural produce so that 'huge quantities' of rice, rubber, coffee and quinine may be sent to JAPAN, and SUMATRA will be developed to supply many essential and valuable materials for manufacturing in JAPAN.'

So, the loot goes on, and the Allied Nations have done well now to declare that the plunder will surely not be recognised in any post-war settlement.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

'1918' is the name of a new campaign which was started three months ago as complementary to the dot-dot-dash or the 'V' campaign. The figure '1918' is scribbled on walls all over GERMANY to remind the Germans of the fate that overtook them in 1918, the fourth year of the last war. Now ominously enough another fourth war year has come round with results already hardly encouraging to them. The effect of the scribbling on the Germans is said to be exactly like that of the proverbial red rag on the bull and its object, which is to depress the morale inside GERMANY even as that of the 'V' movement, is to raise the morale outside GERMANY would appear to be succeeding well. Curiously enough the '1918' movement has its origin in one of Hitler's own speeches in which he said, 'the events of 1918 will not be repeated'. '1918' is the reply

to the boast, and it already looks as if the hostilities that were started four years ago now, to set right the 'injustice of 1918' will soon hit back in boomerang-fashion on Adolf Hitler and his Nordic race, with results far worse than VERSAILLES.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v v

A MODERN MIRACLE. Speaking in London on Jan. 13 Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty disclosed that BRITAIN's naval strength was now greater than when the war began, inspite of the fact that the naval losses she has sustained hitherto would by themselves amount to a great fleet. This miracle has been achieved with 100,000 workers less than in the last war.

According to a WASHINGTON authority while GERMANY is building submarines faster than are sunk the United Nations are building cargo-ships faster than they are destroyed.

FIGHTING IN BURMA.

Field Marshal Wavell.

—*Jan. 16.*

The clearance of this area in Arakan is useful. It is an advance, and will have a good effect in India, and is also good training for our officers and men. Our British troops are doing well.

I have just come to look round the area. It is a difficult country, probably rather similar to conditions in New Guinea.

No, I would not consider this the most difficult campaign that is being carried out at present ; every campaign has its own problems.

The problem here is transport. We have to use sampans and every other available local method of transport. We considered using elephants in this area, but they eat so much ; they might, however, be able to live on young bamboo shoots of which there are plenty.

I understand that there are wild elephants in the hills here, and I am told that an officer shot a tiger.

I do not consider that the North African campaign affects this area now from the view-point of supplies. They are coming in all right, and we have many more planes than before.

What happens in the Solomons does, however, affect the situation in Burma. The Japanese seem to be getting hard hit there, especially their shipping which is an important problem for them.

WHY WE FIGHT?

Moscow Radio puts it this way:

In 1940 Hitler said: *"We have won"*.
In 1941 Hitler said: *"We shall win"*.
In 1942 Hitler said: *"We must win"*.
In 1943 Hitler said: *"We shall not capitulate"*.

That is an apt and accurate representation of the downward trajectory of the once blazing comet. But it is more than that. It is a commentary on Nazi propaganda; and as the sword which has made such hideous slaughter begins to buckle in his hand it is not unnatural that Hitler should feel for the poniard that has so often served him in the past when backs were turned towards him. In the straits in which he finds himself his propaganda-weapon has two tasks: to lash his own slaves to greater effort and to sow confusion among the freedom-loving peoples opposing him. The words that Moscow has quoted are in substance his own. But on each occasion they were spoken, however histrionically, with the calculation of a demagogue. They were intended to produce in his hearers, at home and abroad, a definite reaction favourable to the insatiable ambitions of himself and his associates. They are revealing, but they contain a warning.

"Capitulate" is a new word for the war-lord to use in reference to his own armed might. If Hitler assures his people that he will never capitulate, it is because the word has been heard inside Germany. His warning is intended to block that path of escape from the mounting horror, and to divert to his own rescue his people's fear of the retribution which his crimes might bring upon them. It is significant that Goebbels has at the same time started a special atrocity-campaign against Russia, designed not only to draw upon the last ounce of German resistance but also to justify Hitler's "defensive attack" upon the nation which has done so much to explode the legends o his own intuition and of German invincibility.

In the outside world Hitler's defiance is intended to raise the question "Is it all worth while?" He knows that not all his guile could now secure a a compromise peace on the terms which he had in his pocket in 1940; but he has ample opportunities for the study of war-weariness at home, and he hopes that the symptom can be turned to his advantage abroad.

Of course we are tired of war. We have been tired of it since it started. But that does not mean that we swallow the prescription of Hitler and Tojo, whose systems are based upon war, nourished by war and dependent upon war for their continuance. Samuel Butler was once asked "Is life worth while?" "That", he answered, "is a question for an embryo, not for a man." The choice of war was no more ours than is the choice of birth to any man. It was the choice of the aggressors, and it is plain necessity that it can only end one way—the way that they fear most of all.

THE INVISIBLE WAR.

(*Wickham Steed*).

Behind the visible military fronts in this war an invisible struggle of unknown quality and extent is proceeding on what may be called political and moral fronts. Every Allied success increases the intensity of this struggle.

The other day an important member of an Allied Government in London said that secret reports from many parts of Europe were compelling him to believe that, unless tension on the invisible front relaxed, something would crack or explode among the peoples of the Axis or those subject to Axis control. He had striven against this belief because he was anxious not to deceive himself or mislead his Government. Yet evidence was becoming too strong to be rejected as insufficient.

EFFECT OF ALLIED SUCCESSES.

Certain it is that the Allied successes in North Africa have caused a ferment throughout the Balkan peninsula and even in Finland. Some time ago a Nazi organ in Rumania protested indignantly against rejoicings among Rumanians over the Anglo-American landings in Morocco and Algeria. In Italy cries for peace become louder with every British and American air raid on Turin or Naples. In Finland symptoms of warweariness are frequent. In France Laval publicly recognizes strong opposition to collaboration with Germany when he announces his determination to stop it. The population of the coastal districts of Holland is being removed into the interior. Even in Germany nervous unrest is spreading, though the German people have not yet been told either of German losses in Russia or of Rommel's withdrawal from El Agheila without giving battle.

OUSTING THE AXIS FROM AFRICA.

Militarily the North African fighting may decide the fate of Italy. Morally the expulsion of Axis forces from Tripoli and Tunis would be likely to decide whether Hitler and Mussolini can keep the Italain people in the war. The process of ousting the Axis from Tunis may be hard and slow. More than 400 miles of waterless desert remain to be crossed before the remnants of Rommel's Afrika Korps can be driven to the Tunisian border. [Tripoli is now about to fall—Editor]. Meanwhile much may depend militarily and morally upon the success or failure of Hitler's commanders to save the German divisions surrounded between the Don and the Volga and to stop the loss of those in the Caucasus, Crimea and South-Eastern Russia. Nor is it only a question of avoiding military disaster. The German grip on Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Greece is at stake. The last vestige of faith in German victory would vanish among Hitler's satellites just as fear of permanent enslavement would vanish among his victims. The invisible moral struggle would then produce visible effects.

JAPANESE DEFEATS.

To these possibilties in Europe must be added the imponderable influence of the Japanese defeats in New Guinea and of the full restoration of Madagascar to Fighting French rule by agreement between Britain and General de Gaulle. Throughout India, Burma, China and the Southern Pacific these events will be seen to foreshadow the ultimate overthrow of Japan. In those wide regions also Japan will feel the growing strain of the moral struggle.

NOT A BRAKE ON EFFORT.

Far from interpreting these relatively favourable circumstances as pledges of a swift or easy triumph, the British Government and people, like those of the United States, are determined to intensify their exertions against the enemy. The British age-limits for military service is being extended to include boys of 17 and men of 50. Out of a population of 33,000,000 men and women of working age, 22,000,000 are already doing war work. This number will shortly be increased. In Britain there is neither warweariness nor unwillingness for further effort and sacrifice. Victory which for three years was a matter of faith—sometimes a lonely, obstinate faith—is now seen to be within the grasp of the Allied nations if they throw their whole moral as well as material force into the task of seizing and holding it.

On the Allied side too the tension of the moral struggle is growing greater. Yet it is not accompanied by any feeling of strain. It is the tension of body and mind that marks the supreme successful effort of an athlete to reach the winning post and to break all records in gaining the prize.

FIFTH COLUMN ACTIVITY IN TANGIER.

(From Madras War Review).

There is a man in North Africa to-day who needs most careful watching. But, because his position is safeguarded by an international agreement which we—if not others—still respect, he may stay there and cause us the greatest inconvenience. He is Dr. Kurt Rieth, German Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul-General in the technically neutral international zone of Tangier, writes the *Daily Herald's* foreign editor. Before the present campaigns in North Africa are finished, we shall probably hear much more both of the hostile personality of Rieth and the neutral territory of Tangier.

Rieth is an expert in the organization of fifth column activities and espionage. He made his reputation among the Nazis when, as German Minister in Vienna, he instigated the murder of Chancellor Dollfuss. Austrian police quickly established quite definitely his connection with that outrage—apart from his personal intervention that the murderers should have safe passage to Germany. Then suddenly Hitler disowned the Austrian Nazi rebels and recalled Rieth, and the plotter diplomat disappeared into temporary obscurity.

A "COMMERCIAL AGENT".

He reappeared last year as a "commercial agent" in the United States. He went there from Mexico, and, from the moment he crossed the frontier, he was watched by G-men of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Within two months he was arrested and deported. He had been organising a pro-German group whose aim was to hinder the operation of the Lease-Lend Act.

Six months ago Hitler sent him to Tangier where he was received with due honours by the Spanish authorities then in control there.

That Spanish control is another product of this war, for, by the international agreement of 1923—28 Tangier was established as a neutral zone carved out of Spanish Morocco with an international committee of control. Spain, however, was given the policing of the zone. General Franco took advantage of that when France collapsed in June, 1940, to pour in Spanish troops well over the number required. Within a few months the Spanish garrison mounted from 1,000 to nearly 20,000. Franco then proclaimed that Spain had taken over full control of the zone. The International Control Committee was dissolved, and Tangier is now administered by the Spanish High Commissioner for Morocco. Britain protested against this action, and an interim agreement was negotiated under which it was promised that British rights in Tangier would be respected. An assurance was given that there would be no fortification of the Tangier zone, but there is reason to believe that the assurance has not been respected.

British subjects have had to suffer insults in Tangier, and Axis-inspired rioters have damaged British commercial properties. Axis envoys, the most dangerous of whom is Rieth, enjoy all privileges and are pampered by the Spanish authorities. Rieth and his colleagues have turned Tangier into a nest of espionage and intrigue and the inhabitants of Spanish Morocco provide them with a fertile field on which to work. Tangier gives them also a wonderful observation post from which to watch and report on Allied military activities in North Africa.

TACTICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

CYRIL FALLS.

(From The Illustrated London News.)

Tactical developments on the battle field, upon, it may be, a comparatively few square miles of ground, soon begin to affect strategy, and through strategy they extend their influence to the highest realms of policy. There is thus a firm link between the trend of combat between tanks and infantry and artillery and the decisions which are taken by war cabinets, though naturally there is a lag in time before the new trends are brought home to statesmen and even to their military advisers. And tactics have been developing as, in a general sense, I have always prophesied they would. The day of quick decisions in war is not over, yet they are now likely to be less common.

This is due in part to the fact that Germany's superiority in armament over her opponents is not nearly so great as it was at the opening of the war. The gap has been narrowed and in certain instances almost closed. But it is due also to influences which would in any case have made themselves felt. The so called *Blitzkrieg* has been carefully studied and analysed in order to discover methods by which it may be countered. Men's minds have habituated themselves to the idea, and in the process have become less perturbed by it. The Russians have been important contributors to the new developments, but so also have the Germans themselves, for they have been standing on the defensive, and in general successfully, on the whole wide front from Leningrad to the region of Kursk since the Christmas of 1941. We also have played a part in them.

To-day, there can be no doubt, defence has emerged from the hopeless position in which it stood during the early stages of this war. Offence has not lost its ascendency, but its margin of superiority has been diminished. It must now for the most part rely upon more deliberate tactics. All this is in the very nature of war itself. The fact that certain weapons and tactics obtain overwhelming success brings about the beginnings of a reaction. In peace, when developments can be subjected only to the limited tests of manoeuvres, this may be slow in growing. In war, when the tests are extremely searching and both brains and material resources are intensely concentrated upon the various problems, the process is far more rapid. It was the ascendency of defence in the last war which led to the developments of tactics of infiltration and which gave birth to the tank. It has been the threat of the aircraft to the warship which has led to the immense development in the numbers, size and power of aircraft-carriers and to the employment of anti-aircraft ships. The threat of the night bomber has brought about great improvements in defence against it, including weapons and methods which have been specially invented for the purpose. The threat of the submarine led to the convoy system in the last war, and has led to further developments in it during the past three years.

RUSSIA'S NAVY.

ROBERT FORTMAN.

(*From the Spectator*).

It is natural to regard Russia's armed strength as more characteristically military, and less naval, than that of any other great power. A glance at the last comprehensive published figures of the strength, equipment and organisation of the armed forces of the world, in the Armaments Year Book of 1938 will tend to confirm such an impression.

Of capital ships, Germany had three modern craft in service, Russia and Italy had four antiquated vessels each: Germany had four building,

Italy two, and Russia three described as "projected." Of aircraft-carriers, Germany had none in service, the other two States one each; Germany had two under construction, the other two none. Taking cruisers, Germany had 6 in service, Italy 22, Russia 7, Germany had 5 building, Italy apparently none, Russia 1. Of destroyers and similar types, Germany had 28, Italy 113, Russia 39, including an unspecified but probably rather high proportion of mine layers; the numbers given as under construction were respectively, 18, 25 and 4. Of submarines, Germany had 36, Italy 86, Russia (including those under construction and 40 of 200 tons displacement, obviously suitable only for the the Black Sea, the Gulf of Finland or the Gulf of Riga) 130; Germany had 15 building, Italy 19.

In interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that while the Italian's Navy's commitments are limited to the Mediterranean, or virtually so, and while the Kiel canal makes it easy for German Naval Forces to be switched from the Baltic to the North Sea, the Russian Black Sea Fleet has to operate in isolation from the naval force in the Baltic, the Arctic and the Pacific; the Caspian Flotilla is, of course, completely shut off; and the Baltic Fleet, when Russia is at war with Germany, can gain access to the Arctic and the Pacific only by the Stalin Canal—whose construction by the Soviet regime has greatly increased Russia's naval strength to day by comparison with the Russo-Japanase War and the Four Years' War. Further, Germany's capacity to build, and probably Italy's, exceeds that of Russia, particularly since the Germans have captured Nikolaiev and Odessa and brought Leningrad under siege.

Despite these facts, the Russian Fleet is playing an invaluable part in Russia's war effort, and the present rulers of Russia are doing no more than continue Czarist policy in attaching great importance to naval questions. The extent to which other powers have interested themselves in Russia's fleet is evidenced by the fact that the status of the Black Sea and that of the Straits giving access from it to the Mediterranean have been questions most fruitful of international controversy. Fear that a Russian fleet might one day dominate the eastern Mediterranean led to the demilitarisation of the Black Sea by the Treaty of Paris, at the end of the Crimean War: a provision which the Czarist Government took the opportunity to repudiate in the confusion created by the Franco-Prussian War. And the status of the Sea and the Straits have varied from time to time, the most recent settlement being that of the Montreux Straits Convention of 1936.

The importance of the Navy in the Soviet system of defence is borne out by the secrecy always observed both about the composition of the fleet and the distribution of its units. The list of units compiled by the League of Nations Secretariat, and quoted above, had to be taken from unofficial technical publications, no official information being available; naturally, it has not been made available since. Two or three of the cruisers were modern; so, probably, was a large proportion of the destroyers, whose numbers may have considerably increased since the preparation of the Secretariat's figures; it has

commonly been surmised that the submarine strength of 130, estimated by the Secretariat, had risen to about 200 by June, 1941. Qualitatively, the battle-ships were known to be out of date: the cruisers to vary from the modern to the antiquated; most of the destroyers, torpedo boats and submarines to be of recent design. Of the distribution of these vessels, as much was known as was impossible to conceal. There were one old battle-ship, one aircraft-carrier and three old cruisers in the Black Sea, two old battleships and two modern cruisers in the Baltic. For the rest, the details of the strength, quality and location of the Russian Fleet on the outbreak of war with Germany were a matter of inference or mere guess work, and so, in the main, have they remained. The general outlines of the situation are, none the less, clear.

The Black Sea Fleet, for all its inadequacy by modern standards, has sufficed to dominate that sea. There has been no Axis vessel in those waters to compete on anything like equal terms with its cruisers, which, it may be noted, were before the war adapted to carry a few aircraft. The handful of destroyers, gunboats and submarines (in 1937, at least, only one submarine) which compose the Rumanian Navy, and any craft which may in recent months have been constructed at Constanza or Varna, have been quite insufficient to challenge even the smaller vessels of the Russians. Thus control over the Black Sea has been of obvious value in the defence of Southern Russia. It has enabled Russian supply ships to sail with comparative immunity, assisting land operations directly, as for instance, by maintaining Sevastopol during the siege. Transports removing troops from Odessa and civilians from Sevastopol have been protected. Above all, freedom of movement has been denied to the Axis; even coastal vessels have not been free from submarine attack; supply being the Germans' greatest difficulty, they have not been able to supplement their lines of land communications by water transport to any material extent. And a combined operation against the Caucasian coast has been out of the question.

The main role of the Baltic Fleet was to help the Army to fight its delaying actions on the northern front in the summer and early autumn of 1941, covering the Army's flank, convoying its supplies, and protecting the evacuation of Tallinn as of Odessa. Its losses against the superior German fleet were undoubtedly heavy, though it struck some hard blows in return. It seems clear that the main body of the survivors left the Baltic by way of the Stalin Canal, though at least some submarines and probably some surface craft remained to harass Axis shipping.

In the Arctic Russian craft have sunk German supply vessels and have played some part in covering our Arctic convoys in the last stages of their voyages to Murmansk or Archangel. But of course the main task of the Russian Navy, in addition to those enumerated above, is to be on the alert against Japanese aggression in the Far East. It is inconceivable, indeed, that the Russian surface craft available should be able to engage the main Japanese Battle Fleet. But the Far East submarine flotilla—according to an

estimate published in the Journal of the Royal United Service Institution of August, 1941, some seventy craft—and light surface vessels must, with their threat to transports and supply ships, constitute a major deterrent to further Japanese aggression at a time when the Japanese Fleet has many other responsibilities.

The Russians have a flotilla of monitors on the Volga. Its action in defence of Stalingrad, as mobile artillery in direct tactical support of the Russian armies, is symbolic of the Navy's place in the Soviet defence system. It is, in fact, part of the Army, subordinate to the People's Commissariat of Defence; and Russia has no naval strategy in the sense that Britain or Japan or Germany has naval strategies. Thus Russian naval action is almost entirely confined to direct support of Russia's armies. But the Navy's role, if subordinate, has been and is essential, and in adding to Axis shipping difficulties it is making an independent contribution to the United Nations' ultimate victory.

THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT LOOKS FORWARD.

Sir Robert Denniston.

(*From the Madras War Review*).

Few things are certain, but the most cautious prophet would probably subscribe to the view that the year 1943 will be a year of great happenings. It may well turn out to be a miraculous year—a year of deliverance for half the population of the globe. I often wonder, when I read the petulant vapourings of fractious politicians whether they have the slightest conception of what we in India have escaped. Let us examine the lot of the people in this country in relation to that of those countries now overrun by an enemy whose malignancy exceeds that of all the most noted tyrants of history, and whose methods lead one to the conclusion that, if they lived at the present day, the torturers of the Spanish Inquisition would be dismissed as incompetent bunglers.

Any country at war must expect to suffer certain inconveniences, but I should like to place those inconveniences in their proper perspective. Food prices are rising, but we are not starving, as are millions of people in France, Belgium, Poland, Norway and Greece. Such work as we are called upon to do is voluntary. Our men and women are not drafted to work for a ruthless foe under conditions of slavery and semi-starvation. We have no concentration camps—those hell-inspired inventions of the Nazi and Fascist parties nor do we see children tossed in the air and impaled on the point of the bayonet. In this particular pleasantry (it is called the New Order for Asia) the Japanese have reverted to the jungle, and if this is one of their forms of gentle relaxation we may perhaps view with mild scepticism their promises to deliver India. As for their 'deliverance' of other countries which they now occupy temporarily, this is marked by organized sapping of the morale of the inhabitants by the deliberate inculcation of the drug habit.

NOT SENTENCED FOR GRUMBLING.

Again, we do not see our crops harvested and despatched to our enemies, as do the inhabitants of Belgium, Holland, Denmark, and (there is a certain poetic justice about this) Italy. We cannot be told by the pot-valiant Goering that Germans must be fed first, and if there is any food left over we can have it. We are not sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for grumbling, as are the people of Berlin—else most of us would be in prison. What would you say if you were sentenced to two years imprisonment for "talking impudently during the packing of parcels?"—this is the latest Berlin antic. We may, if we are so minded, and if we are fond of fiction, listen to the Tokyo radio hissing hatred, or to the hysterical outpourings of the malignant dwarf who is Mr. Schicklgruber's mouthpiece and accomplice. If we were in Berlin or Tokyo and listened to a British or Indian broadcast we would be sent to a concentration camp, or we would die—which would be preferable. Our experience of air raids has hitherto been practicably nil—perhaps a couple of dozen bombs in all have been dropped on South Indian soil—a horrid experience for those on the spot I grant you, but we have not had 1,000 air raids in five days (think of it!) as have the people of Malta, and we do not have to spend the greater part of our lives underground, as the Maltese—those brave people—do. Our air raid casualties cannot be numbered by the hundred thousand as in Great Britain, neither are our homes, our places of worship, our historic buildings razed to the ground, as they have been in England.

LIVE IN COMPARATIVE COMFORT.

And so, while the greater part of the world lives precariously and in varying degrees of misery, we in India live in comparative comfort. Ought not we to do something about it? Great Britain, although herself experiencing the full force of the Axis air arm has done quite a lot for other people, and raucous advocates of a second front (ignoring the fact that there is a second front in Libya, a third in North Africa and a fourth in India) might be interested to learn what Britain and America have done to help Russia. They have despatched during the year which is past one aircraft every 172 minutes, one tank every 128 minutes, one motor vehicle every 17 minutes, one ton of oil or petrol every 4 minutes and one ton of machine tools and metal every 38 seconds. And the Berlin Radio tells us "The Soviets are bitterly disappointed with the failure of Britain and the United States to keep their laviah promises of war material." Really Dr. Goebbels!

And what is the measure of the contribution which we in India are making towards the re-establishment of civilization! It is considerable. The Indian Army has never stood higher in world esteem. The Indian Navy has added cubits to its stature, and H. M. I. S. *Bengal* is responsible for one of the epic adventures of the war. Our factories and mills have redoubled their production and our technicians are playing a worthy part. But there is another side to the picture. What, do you think, is the world's opinion of the outbreak of lawlessnes, of destruction and murder which we have recently

1244-29.

witnessed? How does this organized banditry look against the background of the Allies' help to Russia? Against 3,052 aircraft despatched to Russia, 32 policemen murdered; against 4,084 tanks, 550 post offices attacked; against 30,031 motor vehicles, 70 police stations and 140 other Government buildings burnt; against 118,000 tons of oil, 3,500 instances of wire cutting; against 831,000 tons of metals, damage to Railways and post offices of over a crore of rupees. Here is work after Hitler's own evil heart, and the Tokyo radio pours forth ecstatic congratulations.

WHAT OF 1943?

So much for the past year; what of 1943? Never has there been a year so full of promise; never one in which men of goodwill can play so large a part. Never in the history of war has the rôle of the civilian been so important. I venture to suggest a few New Year resolutions for members of the National War Front. Let us resolve to remain at our posts in all circumstances, remembering that the chances of our being hit by an enemy bomb are less than those of our being run over in the street. Let us eschew those horrid phrases "wishful thinking" and "scorched earth" with their dangerous implication of defeat. Let us organize resistance to the breakers of the law, and pay the goonda back in his own coin. Let us help to instil "guts" into the faint-hearted, expose the hoarder of food and pillory the scaremonger. By so doing we shall assist in the discomfiture of Mr. Schicklgruber and his slightly shop-soiled accomplices, and shall have contributed in some small degree to the victory which is already looming on the horizon.

COMMANDOS.

The Commando soldier treads a hard path in training. His body is built up to the highest pitch of efficiency, while he is schooled to think quickly.

The ideal type is aged between 18 and 25, sturdy not too tall. Recruits work six and a half days each week. They start early in the morning and generally finish late at night.

ALL-NIGHT EXERCISES.

They have many all night exercises. They do vigorous physical training, stripped to the waist even in the bitterest winter wind. A fully fledged Commando soldier must know something of boxing, wrestling, mountaineering, boating, swimming, shooting and cooking. He has to climb high jagged cliffs, crawl along ropes from tree to tree, or across a river and, generally, live a rough and tumble life that gives confidence and courage.

Wherever possible the training is based on re-enacting Commando exploits against the enemy. One group for example, raided imaginary Rommel Headquarters, another did house clearing as it was done at Vaagso (Norway).

In another exercise, a party of troopers crossed a lovely Highland loch in collapsible boats, while live bullets whistled close past. They destroyed an imaginary battery of enemy guns, half a mile inland.

Between 60 and 70 regiments of the British Army are represented in the now widely scattered Commando units. Commandos always operate with the Navy, frequently with the Air Force, and usually with other Army units.

"V" POCKET DIARY AND ENGAGEMENT BOOK-1943.

REVISED AND ENLARGED.

Linen Rs. 1-4-0; Sheepskin Rs. 1-8-0;

Morocco Rs. 2-0-0.

ALL PROFITS GO TO WAR FUND.

For copies apply to.—

THE SECRETARY,

National War Front Bureau,

PUDUKKOTTAI. (South India.)

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CXXX. (*Batch 1*)

24-1-43	Puvarasakudi ...	7.00 p.m.
,,	Venkatakulam ...	7.30 ,,
25-1-43	Perungalur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Adanakkottai ...	7.30 ,,
26-1-43	Kiranur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Nanjur ...	7.30 ,,
27-1-43	C. S. M. High School.	10.00 a.m.
,,	Rani's High School.	10.15 ,,
27-1-43	College A English	10.15 a.m.
,,	College B Tamil.	10.15 ,,
,,	Mirattunilai ...	7.00 p.m.
,,	Arimalam ...	7.30 ,,
28-1-43	Poongudi ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Satyamangalam...	7.30 ,,
29-1-43	Udayalippatti ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Killukottai ...	7.30 ,,

LECTURE CXXXI. (*Batch 2.*)

30-1-43	Municipal Office.	7.45 p.m.
31-1-43	Kudumiyamalai ..	7.00 ,,
,,	Parambur ...	7.30 ,,
1-2-43	Vengalur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Konapattu ...	7.30 ,,
2-2-43	Nachchandupatti.	7.00 ,,
,,	Virachchilai ...	7.30 ,,
3-2-43	C. S. M. High School.	10.00 a.m.
3-2-43	Rani's High School.	10.15 a.m.
,,	College A English	10.15 ,,
,,	College B Tamil.	10.15 ,,
,,	Kodumbalur ...	7.00 p.m.
,,	Viralimalai ...	7.30 ,,
4-2-43	Kalamavur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Nallur ...	7.30 ,,
5-2-43	Panayappatti ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Rangiyam ...	7.30 ,,

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

23—1—43	Ponnamaravathi.
[illegible]—1—43	Kodumbalur.
25—1—43	Arimalam.
26—1—43	[illegible]rambur.
27—1—43	Karambakkudi.
28—1—43	Kilanilai.
29—1—43	Pudukkottai.
30—1—43	Tirumayyam.
31—1—43	Virachchilai.
1—2—43	Mullangurichchi.
2—2—43	Konapattu.
3—2—43	Kilanilai-Puduppatti.
4—2—43	Alangudi.
5—2—43	Pudukkottai.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 750—24—1—43.